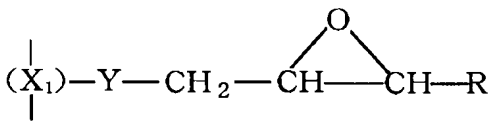
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 4 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. New Claims 27-30 are supported by Claims 1 and 3. New Claims 31-33 are supported by Claim 1 and by specification page 7, lines 17-18. No new matter has been entered.

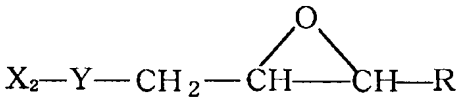
At the outset, Applicants wish to review the scope of present Claim 1, as the applied references do not disclose or suggest polymeric species that fall within the scope of this claim.

Present Claim 1 requires a polymer component (A) that includes (c0)polymer A-1 and/or A-2. A-1 and A-2 both include at least one cyclocarbonato group represented by Formula (1) of Claim 1. However, it is very important to note that both components A-1 and A-2 are obtained by reacting carbon dioxide with a monomer represented by Formula 2 or Formula 3 of Claim 1:

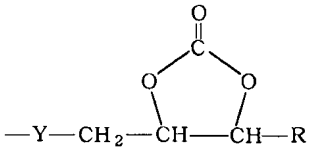
**Formula (2):**



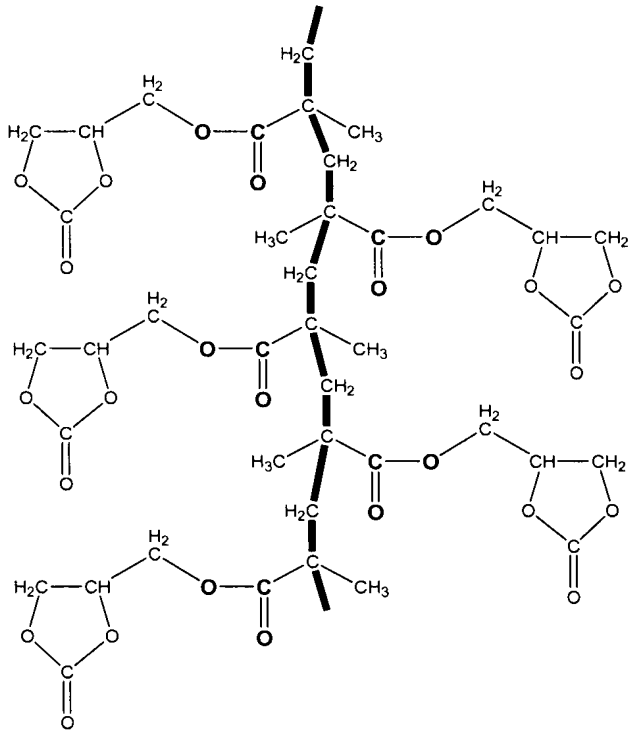
**Formula (3):**



where, during such reactions, the epoxy groups in Formulae 2 and 3 are converted into the cyclocarbonato group of Formula (1):



Thus, the claimed structural requirements of (co) polymers A-1 and A-2 are shown in Formulae 2 and 3, and it is these formulae that deserve special attention because they show that group Y is directly bonded to $X_1$ or $X_2$ which are residual groups of an unsaturated carboxylic acid. As the Examiner is aware, Y represents a COO group and, in view of Formulae 2 an 3, this COO group must be directly bonded to the residual group of an $\alpha$, $\beta$-unsaturated carboxylic acid. An example of such a polymer is depicted below:



and when Claim 1 is understood in this context a review of the applied references shows that Applicants' claimed basic structural units are not suggested by any of the references.

For example, Takeuchi, in the species described in the Official Action, includes a $(CH_2)_2NHCOO$ group between the COO closest to the unsaturated acrylic functionality and the cyclocarbonato group. This is quite different and distinct from materials included within the scope of the present claims, as discussed above, and the reference as a whole does not

disclose Applicants' claimed (co)polymers. Yasunami similarly fails to describe anything included within the present claims, as even the M-54 species repeated at page 4 of the Official Action is lacking a methylene group (i.e., a $CH_2$ group) between the COO group and the cyclocarbonato group. Perhaps the closest specie in Yasunami to that presently claimed is M-56, but this specie has a sulfur group rather than an oxygen in the cyclo moiety, and the substitution of oxygen and sulfur is *not* recognized as obviousness. *In re Grabiak,* 226 USPQ 870 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

For these reasons, even if one were to substitute the polymeric materials of Takeuchi (or even Yasunami for that matter) into the Yoshida structure the result would not be anything that Applicant is claiming herein. For these reasons and those described previously, Applicants thus respectfully submit that the applied references do not affect the patentability of the present claims, and their passage to Issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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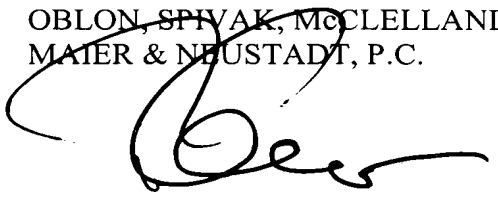

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